

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An encryption device for encrypting information on a confidential target, comprising:

an imaging unit configured to perform imaging on a target and to output ~~[[a]]~~ analog first and second ~~signal~~ signals, ~~[[said]]~~ the first signal including image data of an inside portion of the target, and ~~[[said]]~~ the second signal including variation patterns specific to the imaging unit;

an identification unit configured to perform analog/digital conversion on the first signal having the image data to create identification information;

a creation unit configured to perform analog/digital conversion on the second signal having the variation patterns to create encryption key information unique to the imaging unit; and

an encryption unit configured to encrypt the identification information by using the encryption key information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 1, wherein the creation unit includes a storage unit configured to store a plurality of predetermined evaluation patterns having different hamming distances, and ~~[[said]]~~ the creation unit is further configured to create the encryption key information by using at least one calculated hamming distance of the image data and the plurality of predetermined ~~different~~ evaluation patterns.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a communication unit configured to communicate with a prescribed communication party[[,]]; and

the creation unit is further configured to select evaluation patterns requested by the communication party, from the plurality of predetermined evaluation patterns stored in the storage unit.

Claims 4 and 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An encryption method for encrypting information on a confidential target, comprising:

performing imaging on an inside portion of a target via an imaging unit;

outputting [[a]] an analog first signal that includes image data of the inside portion of the target;

outputting [[a]] an analog second signal that includes variation patterns specific to the imaging unit;

performing analog/digital conversion on the first signal having the image data to create identification information;

performing analog/digital conversion on the second signal having the variation patterns to create encryption key information unique to the imaging unit; and

encrypting via a processor the identification information by using the encryption key information.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The encryption method according to claim 6, further comprising:

storing a plurality of predetermined evaluation patterns having different hamming distances; and

creating the encryption key information including calculating at least one hamming distance of the image data and the ~~different~~ plurality of predetermined evaluation patterns.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The encryption method according to claim 7, further comprising:

selecting evaluation patterns requested by a prescribed communication party, from the plurality of predetermined evaluation patterns being stored.

Claims 9 and 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An encryption device for encrypting information on a confidential target, comprising:

imaging means for performing imaging on a target and outputting ~~[[a]]~~ analog first and second ~~signal~~ signals, ~~said the~~ the first signal including image data of an inside portion of the target, and ~~[[said]]~~ the second signal including variation patterns specific to the imaging means;

identification means for performing analog/digital conversion on the first signal having the image data to create identification information;

creation means for performing analog/digital conversion on the second signal having the variation patterns to create encryption key information unique to the imaging means; and

encryption means for encrypting the identification information by using the encryption key information.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the imaging unit is further configured to project near-infrared light into the target.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 1, wherein the first signal includes blood vessel pattern information representing a formation pattern of blood vessel tissues inside the target.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second signal includes data based on a signal output from a plurality of piezoelectric ~~element~~ elements of a touch pad.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second signal includes data ~~[[of]]~~ based on a signal output from a group of active elements.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The encryption device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second signal includes data ~~[[of]]~~ based on a signal output from a group of passive elements.